

Why We Oppose Liquor

The statements below were signed by hundreds of men and women in Wake county.

They are based on a critical study of the facts as carefully obtained from counties having liquor stores and from other reliable sources.

1. BECAUSE we believe that legalizing liquor will increase drinking, drunkenness, drunken driving and other liquor evils. To sell liquor in attractive stores on "Main Street," with the approval of the Government, will tend to take some of the moral shame and stigma from drinking, will tend to lend respectability to drinking and will surely increase drinking. This fact is apparent in the Counties that operate liquor stores. The public records of Wilson covering arrests for public drunkenness, drunken and disorderly conduct and drunken driving, for a period of 20 months after liquor stores were open, as compared with 20 months before the stores opened, show that arrests for public drunkenness increased about 70 per cent, arrests for drunken and disorderly conduct increased about 13 per cent and arrests for drunken driving increased about 57 per cent. The records in other liquor store Counties show similar increases in drinking, drunkenness and other liquor evils.

2. BECAUSE we do not believe that our tax burdens can be permanently decreased with revenue or profits from liquor. A large majority of the money collected by County Liquor Stores is sent out of the State to purchase the liquor; and in the long run the small temporary profits will be more than wiped out by the increased cost of courts, jails, hospitals, insane asylums, poor houses, private and public charities and other damages wrought by liquor sold by the County stores.

3. BECAUSE we do not want liquor to control our City and County Governments. We believe that county liquor control stores will mean counties con-

trolled by liquor stores. The word "control" in recent liquor legislation is a delusion. Neither these laws nor the stores operated under them will control liquor. The enactment of the law itself resulted from control by liquor. In 1933, LIQUOR CONTROL said legalize 3.2 beer and temperance will be promoted. In 1935, LIQUOR CONTROL said increase the alcoholic content of beer to 5 per cent, legalize wine, and establish liquor stores in seventeen Counties and temperance will be promoted. In 1937, liquor control denied the people of North Carolina the right of voting in a State-wide Referendum and legalized beverages with 24 per cent alcoholic content, legalized transportation of whiskey into Dry Counties and attempted to deliver all of our counties into the hands of foreign liquor barons. In the 1937 General Assembly, LIQUOR CONTROL decreed that any County might vote to operate liquor stores but only as agents for foreign liquor distilleries. Liquor can be sold by our Counties but the control must be by and for foreign liquor barons. Those Counties, that set up liquor stores, act merely as agents to sell foreign liquor distilleries. Liquor can be the liquor distilleries, and with the debauchery, the crime, the broken homes, the drunken driving and the other hurtful effects of the business remaining in North Carolina.

4. BECAUSE we believe that the evils of liquor that exist in North Carolina today can be relieved better by the enforcement of prohibition than by the establishment of additional sources of liquor or by legalizing the liquortraffic. Non-enforcement of prohibition and the liquor evils resulting therefrom have been caused by the repeal of the 18th Amendment, legalizing beer and wine, establishing liquor stores in certain Counties and by the propaganda that has gone along with and helped produce these LIQUOR CONTROL events. The fact that an adjoining County might

have liquor stores is no worthy reason why our County should operate liquor stores. If liquor hurts our fellow men, it is wrong to sell it. If it is wrong to sell liquor, the mere fact that another County does wrong can not justify our doing wrong. Liquor is hurtful to men; prohibition of the liquor traffic is right; and whatever is right should be supported and sustained instead of repealed and destroyed.

5. BECAUSE we do not desire to engage in the liquor business or have a profit sharing interest in drinking and drunkenness. The laws against liquor can be enforced, if public officials will discharge their duties and our citizens will support them. However, even if prohibition be not fully enforced, even if a certain amount of liquor is going to be sold and drunk, we prefer that this business of debauching our fellow citizens be not operated by our County Government. The mere fact that prohibition has not been fully enforced is no reason why the law should be repealed. We have not prevented kidnapping; but that is no reason why we should legalize kidnaping. The laws against gambling, prostitution, theft, murder and other vices and crimes have not been fully enforced; but this sad fact is no reason why we should repeal any of these laws and legalize any of these vices.

(Who would think of Wake County's legalizing and operating houses of prostitution, gambling and kindred evils for revenue? What is the difference if we sell liquor to curse and destroy our people?)

The horrible situation that exists with reference to liquor has been caused not by prohibition but by the non-enforcement and the partial repeal of prohibition. The remedy for our present situation is to repeal the laws of legalizing beer, wine and liquor stores and to elect public officials who will enforce the laws against liquor.

*We appeal to mothers, fathers & other citizens of
Wake county to vote against Liquor Stores
On June 22nd.*